

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 12602 151645Z

51

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12602

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR FR IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN-FRENCH BILATERAL MILITARY DISCUSSIONS

REF: ROME 8591

1. REFERRING TO EARLIER INDICATIONS (PARA 1, REFTEL) THAT FRENCH MILITARY HAD AGREED TO DISCUSS EUROPEAN-WIDE DEFENSE ISSUES IN BILATERAL MEETING WITH ITALIAN MILITARY OFFICERS, EMBOFF ASKED FOREIGN MINISTRY NATO OFFICE CHIEF (DA RIN) ON NOVEMBER 14 WHAT HAD BEEN RESULT OF TALKS. DA RIN SAID ITALIANS HAD DRAWN A COMPLETE BLANK IN ATTEMPT TO DRAW FRENCH OUT ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS INSTITUTIONALIZING FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN MULTILATERAL DEFENSE FORUM. HE COMMENTED THAT AFTER ITALIAN OFFICERS HAD GONE THROUGH THE LITANY OF ITALIAN THINKING ON THE STRONG DESIRABILITY OF FRENCH INVOLVEMENT IN EUROPEAN DEFENSE DISCUSSIONS AGAINST THE BACK-DROP OF EUROPEAN UNITY, THE FRENCH MILITARY HAD COMPLIMENTED THE ITALIANS ON THEIR POLITICAL AWARENESS BUT SAID SUCH POLITICAL MATTERS ARE NOT WITHIN THE PROVINCE OF THE FRENCH MILITARY. THE FRENCH NOTED THE ITALIAN EXPOSITION AND PROMISED TO MAKE A FULL REPORT TO THEIR SUPERIORS.

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PAGE 02 ROME 12602 151645Z

2. DA RIN SAID THE ITALIANS WERE GREATLY DISAPPOINTED WITH THE

FRENCH ATTITUDE AND CONCLUDED THAT ANY FUTURE MOVEMENT ON
MULTILATERAL DEFENSE COLLABORATION WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM THE
QUAI. VOLPE

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